

# THE BANK

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September 7, 2005

FDIC San Francisco Regional Office  
John F. Carter, Director  
25 Jessie Street @ Ecker Square, Suite 2300  
San Francisco, CA. 94105

RE: Walmart application for Deposit Insurance

Dear Sir:

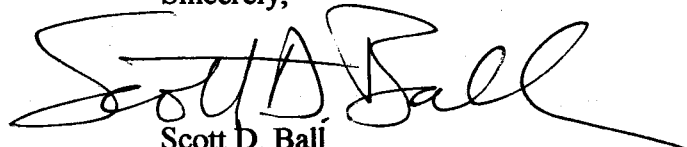
I am writing to voice my opposition to Walmart obtaining deposit insurance for its pending Utah based ILC. Our bank is a locally owned, community bank located in a rural area of 5,000 people. I have personally seen the devastating effect Walmart has on locally owned businesses in our community. Gone are our hardware stores, grocery stores, clothing stores, shoe stores, and our downtown main street is nearly vacant. If Walmart is allowed to venture into banking, gone will be banks like ours with 122 years of history behind it.

Walmart already controls 8% of the non-restaurant, non-automotive sales in the U.S. With a branch of Walmart bank in every store, it would represent a dangerous and unprecedented concentration of economic power. The risks posed by a Walmart bank would be enormous.

Mixing banking and commerce is bad public policy that could jeopardize the impartial allocation of credit and create conflicts of interest.

I ask you to put an end to the "rich get richer" and the "big get bigger" business mentality that is sweeping our country and keep Walmart out of the financial services industry.

Sincerely,



Scott D. Ball  
President, Bank of Salem

A DENT COUNTY TRADITION SINCE 1883

MEMBER FDIC